

9-25-2018

Merrimack College Record

Merrimack College

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.merrimack.edu/mc_record

Recommended Citation

Merrimack College, "Merrimack College Record" (2018). *Merrimack College Record*. 23.
https://scholarworks.merrimack.edu/mc_record/23

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the College Publications & Events at Merrimack ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Merrimack College Record by an authorized administrator of Merrimack ScholarWorks.



MERRIMACK COLLEGE

RECORD

Merrimack Succeeds by Adding - and Explaining - Our Value

Colleagues,

One of the great challenges facing higher education in the United States is pressure from the **public**, from **government regulators**, and from the **media** around costs and benefits.



From one end of the political spectrum we hear arguments about the **value of a college degree**; from another, arguments about the **price and the ability to pay**. We have most recently seen versions of this inject themselves in **Massachusetts political discussions**.

This actually speaks to a failure by colleges and universities to explain to alumni, students, future students, and to especially to families, why higher education is so important to individuals and to society at large. For too long, the public's understanding of the value of higher education has simply been assumed by institutions.

But I know that Merrimack's ability and willingness to have that discussion is one of the reasons we have succeeded in challenging times.

While other colleges chase rankings that are based largely on input measures — SAT scores, class rank, etc. — Merrimack has emphasized the successes we can help students achieve, and the value we add to families' futures. That is why Money Magazine named us one of the "most transformative" institutions in the country — because we make such a huge difference in our graduates' lives and careers.

Our investments in strong academics, state-of-the-art facilities, a robust Academic Success Center and living-learning communities such as Honors, Austin Scholars, iTEC and others give students a richer experience and create not only better educated but better-rounded young people.

Our career-focused services, such as the O'Brien Center for Career Development, career counselors in the schools, Professional Development Days, just to name a few, are also a major differentiator for Merrimack. Our ability to explain so clearly why we will help young men and women get a head start — with a strong foundation of academics and values, practical experience with cutting-edge technologies and personally tailored guidance on moving ahead in the world of work — has drawn more and more students to the College, and more and more notice by the public.

If more universities were making the case for the true value of higher education, the public and regulators would see us very differently as a group. Merrimack College is — and should be — very proud of the fact that we stand out for all the right reasons, but we must never let up in our focus. And we must never stop telling our story of Merrimack graduates’ successes.

I will be exploring each of these topics in more depth over coming weeks, and I welcome your questions and thoughts on these vital issues as the College continues to move forward.

November to be Festival of Remembrance and Gratitude

The month of November naturally lends itself to inviting us to to the universal and unifying experiences of remembering those who have made us who we are and gratitude for all that we have received as gifts.

November begins with the traditional remembrance in prayer of our loved ones who have died and yet remain active as our companions, inspirations, and cheerleaders. It continues with national and international commemoration of the sacrifices of those we have asked to serve in our military, includes the birthday of St. Augustine on Nov. 13, and culminates in our great national day of Thanksgiving.

We have already established many events, performances, gatherings, exhibits, and other opportunities on our campus during the month of November inviting us to remember those who have made our lives and experiences possible, and to express our gratitude for the blessings and gifts we enjoy. This year we are adding some new initiatives while continuing our traditions and would like to invite our entire community to enter into November as a monthlong “Festival of Remembrance and Gratitude.”

Here is a list and brief descriptions of ways that we can join one another in this Festival. You will soon start to see announcements and invitations to participate in these events and opportunities.

Nov. 1- Dec. 31

WHERE WE COME FROM

Everyone will soon be invited to participate in creating an art exhibition to be displayed in the Thagaste Gallery of the Rogers Center for the Arts at Merrimack College unlike anything we’ve done before. “Where We Come From” draws off the longstanding tradition of honoring our ancestors and personal family histories through photography. We would like to creating a living history of our community. and everyone will have the chance to contribute photographs representing our families past, representing relationships from several generations past up to more recent and immediate relationships. You may submit as many as you’d like. All photographs will be handled with great care and respect. You will soon receive a message from Father Rick Piatt, O.S.A., director of the Rogers Center with instructions on how to participate.

Nov. 1

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

Mass at 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel of Our Mother of Good Counsel in Austin Hall

Nov. 1

BEYOND GLORY

A one-man show in the Rogers Center for the Arts by renowned actor Stephen Lang depicting the experiences of seven Medal of Honor recipients.

Nov. 2

FEAST OF ALL SOULS

Mass in memory of all members of our community and loved ones of members of our community at 12:30 p.m.. Location TBD.

Nov. 1-9

MACK GIVES BACK

Remembering the roots of Merrimack College as an institution founded to serve the educational needs of military veterans of World War II, we honor those who served by serving others. In order to maximize the number of people able to volunteer to spend a few hours recalling what we ask of those willing serve in the military and to maximize the quality of the service we are able to offer to our community, Makc Gives Back will take place throughout this week.

Nov. 6

HONORING OUR VETERANS

All are invited to gather in the Multi-Purpose Room in Sakowich Campus Center from 10 to 11 a.m. for a ceremony honoring and thanking veterans for the sacrifices they have made in order to bring us safety and security.

Nov. 8

KRISTALLNACHT/HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

Bus transportation will be provided to bring any interested students, faculty, and staff to join with the congregation of Temple Emmanuel in Andover from 7 to 8 p.m. as they remember what we must never forget. Rena Finder ("Schindler's List" Holocaust survivor) will be the featured speaker.

Nov. 13

IN VINO VERITAS, UNITAS, CARITAS:

The Wines of Tuscany and the Augustinian Tradition

Celebrate St. Augustine's birthday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the Rogers Center for the Arts by joining sommelier Father Stephen Curry, O.S.A., assistant to the dean of the School of Education and Social Policy, for a guided wine tasting and explanation of the Augustinian values of truth, unity and love. Faculty, staff and invited guests only.

Nov. 13-14

POSTCARDS OF GRATITUDE

Sponsored by Campus Ministry and Hamel Health

Tabling on Main Street during the mid-day rush offering students the opportunity to write notes of gratitude to anyone, anywhere in the world. Stationery and postage provide free of charge!

Nov. 15

AGAPE LATTE

with Joe Jenkins of the Girard School of Business

Join us at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary Café for delicious coffee, tea, dessert, entertainment by a talented student or group the opportunity to hear Joe Jenkins, assistant director of career advising and a military veteran, share the story of his faith journey.

Nov. 16-18

M.O.R.E Weekend no. 1

Students can discover Merrimack's best-kept secret by spending this weekend off campus deepening their knowledge of themselves and others while living out the values that make for great community.

Nov. 20

THANKSGIVING BASKET DRIVE COLLECTION DAY

Individuals, families, departments, schools, offices, residence halls, athletic teams, clubs and organizations are encouraged to fill a basket with everything a family in need would use to make Thanksgiving a feast worth all of our gratitude. These baskets can be dropped off in the Sakowich Campus Center Parking lot near Cascia Hall between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. and will be delivered to families throughout the region through the community organization Neighbors in Need.

Nov. 21-25

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Merrimack Seeks 'Apple Distinguished' Designation



The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and the Office of the Provost recently submitted an application for designation as an Apple Distinguished School in recognition of efforts around Mobile Merrimack, a campus-wide initiative to integrate technology into classrooms and curriculum.

Mobile Merrimack was one of the earliest initiatives promoted and funded by President Christopher Hopey.

“When you are an Apple Distinguished School, it’s recognition of creating a culture of continuous innovation in teaching and learning on your campus,” said Associate Provost and Director of Strategic Initiatives Kathryn Nielsen. “It’s an impressive designation in higher ed.”

As an Apple Designated School, Merrimack will be able to share its story of using technology in the classroom on a national and international stage. It’s a leadership approach to academic excellence.

“It’s about demonstrating a vision for learning with technology that inspires creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking inside and outside the classroom,” Nielsen said.

There is an expansive list of criteria for application that includes a one-to-one iPad initiative for students, which Merrimack now meets. Merrimack has been giving iPads to first-year and transfer students for the last four years. Faculty are equipped with mobile devices, as are administrators and staff in admissions, academic success, and athletics.

Associate professor of psychology Michael Stroud has been an Apple Designated Educator since 2017 in recognition of his use of technology for teaching. Apple opens the application process to educators every two years.

Stroud was a Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning faculty fellow who was instrumental in the Mobile Merrimack initiative. He has been working and collaborating with the rest of the Merrimack academic community as an early adopter committed to creating an integrated, tech-enriched classroom experience.

“Providing leadership, professional development and support, the CETL has been the nexus for the integration of mobile technology on campus,” Nielsen said.

The designation as an Apple Distinguished Educator gives Stroud access to conferences set up around educational technology, as well as a community of other educators who can share ideas and ask questions of each other, he said. Stroud has been assigned a group that includes a Stanford University professor and K-12 educators.

Merrimack is expected to hear in early October whether it is being accepted as an Apple Distinguished School.

Grant Supports Research on Child Wellness, Technology

Assistant professor of health science April Bowling and her collaborative team of public and private institutions have received a \$200,000 grant for the GameSquad Wellness Program for Neurodiverse Youth, studying whether exergaming paired with virtual health coaching can motivate children with mental health disorders and autism to increase their exercise for its health benefits.

Bowling is the lead investigator in the collaborative that includes UMass Medical School, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Boston Medical Center Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Clinic, and Marblehead Public Schools’ Therapeutic Intervention Designed for Educational Success Program.

Funding is being provided by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration’s Maternal and Child Health Bureau in Washington, D.C. through UMass Medical Center’s Healthy Weight Research Network.



Children with mental health disorders and autism suffer from chronic diseases like diabetes, obesity, and high blood pressure at higher rates than other children. That is in part because they are more inactive, Bowling said.

“Even children who don’t face these challenges generally don’t get enough exercise in our country today. Now imagine a child who struggles with sports or who regularly doesn’t feel well enough to play.” The goal isn’t to have the children, ages 12 to 17, lose weight, just to get them more active. However, this particular intervention has proven to help obese children

lose weight in a past study, Bowling said.

Children in the study use an Xbox-type of controller to play games such as “Just Dance” that require them to get up and move around to advance to the next level, much like the popular Wii games but more appropriate for older children.

“We’re trying to turn the tables and find a way to get healthy with something they like to do already,” Bowling said. “They are actually getting a workout while they play the game.”

Children wear a Fitbit to track their movement so results can be analyzed.

Children in the study work with a virtual health coach located in Louisiana at Pennington Biomedical Research Center, who first developed the Game Squad intervention for typically developing children. The coach discusses exergaming and exercise while offering advice on sleep and nutritional foods.

“They develop a relationship talking about health with the child and parent,” Bowling said. “That is probably the most important part of the intervention and has worked well in the past. We are hoping it can work well for children with autism and those facing mental health challenges as well.”

Provost Named Delegate to Antarctic Committee

The National Academies of Sciences recently appointed Provost Allan T. Weatherwax to serve as a U.S. delegate to the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), a nongovernmental organization charged to initiate, promote, and coordinate international scientific activity in the Antarctic.

In this role, Weatherwax will help ensure that the U.S. polar research community participates in critical planning activities and encourages international cooperation.

Overall, SCAR is charged with initiating, developing and coordinating high quality international scientific research in the Antarctic region, and on the role of the Antarctic region in the Earth system. SCAR provides objective and independent scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings and other organizations.

Coming up

Sept. 25 - Author Dan Kaufman
• 4 p.m., Writers House

Sept. 27 — Just War and Just Warriors, talk by Marine Maj. Matthew Peterson
• 7 p.m., Cascia Hall

Sept. 28 - Women's Hockey Home Opener
• 6 p.m., Lawler Rink

Oct. 2 - Faculty Senate
• 4 p.m.

Oct. 6 — Men's Hockey Home Opener
• 7 p.m., Lawler Rink

Oct. 8 — Columbus Day; college closed.

Oct. 9 - Staff Forum
• 1 p.m, Crowe Hall Executive Room

Oct. 26-27 - Homecoming Weekend

